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Security Council

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Letter dated 7 October 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward a letter dated 7 October 2011 from Osman Saleh, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea, addressed to you in connection to a draft resolution on Eritrea that might come before the Council (see annex).

I would be most grateful if the letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Araya **Desta**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 7 October 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

7 October 2011

It has come to my attention that the delegation of Gabon is planning to submit a draft resolution to the Security Council calling for additional sanctions on Eritrea. While it is not clear why the delegation of Gabon has chosen to take such an initiative, which aims to impose more economic hardships on Eritrea and its people, it is no secret that it is Ethiopia that has been obsessively campaigning against Eritrea.

This is very ironic, as it is Ethiopia that has wilfully trampled international law and several resolutions of the Security Council and continues to occupy sovereign Eritrean territory, acts that constitute a grave threat to peace and security in the Horn of Africa. It is also evident that Ethiopia's campaign has taken an increasingly desperate tone as the real motives of Ethiopia — to cover its own transgressions and to make the Council a party to its war against Eritrea — become more and more obvious and Eritrea continues to engage positively and constructively, in the regional, continental and international arenas.

Ethiopia knows very well that time is not on its side. Hence, it is engaged in a frantic attempt to have another resolution rushed through the Security Council, in the same way as that unfounded and unjustifiable resolution of December 2009. But the times and the situation have clearly changed since then.

In 2009, the Security Council was pressed, in an environment charged with accusations with no corroborative evidence to respond to a request from the African Union. Now, Ethiopia has decided to totally circumvent the African Union, as it is fully aware that its position cannot garner the support of the continental body, as attested by the resolutions adopted at the latest African Union Summit, in Equatorial Guinea. And despite some sweeping allegations by the Monitoring Group, no incontrovertible evidence has been presented of Eritrean contravention in regard to Somalia, Djibouti or the region, as Eritrea has presented in its preliminary reply to the report of the Monitoring Group (S/2011/433) and is preparing to prove in a more detailed manner in its comprehensive report that will shortly be submitted to the Committee of the Security Council. In fact, Eritrea has taken a host of initiatives to contribute to peace and security and cooperation in the region and for broader international engagement.

Clearly, there is no valid justification whatsoever for maintaining sanctions against Eritrea, not to mention imposing additional ones. These sanctions do not make the least contribution to regional peace, stability and cooperation. They only encourage Ethiopia's irresponsibility and transgressions and fan the flames of conflict in the Horn of Africa.

For all these reasons, Eritrea calls on the Security Council to reject Ethiopia's current hostile campaign, lift with immediate effect all sanctions against Eritrea and take strong and urgent action to ensure that Ethiopia complies with international law and Council resolutions and withdraws from sovereign Eritrean territory. Such a principled move would not only be fair and just, but it would provide a tremendous boost for more constructive and cooperative relations in the Horn of Africa.

Finally, Eritrea calls on the Security Council to afford it the opportunity to properly defend itself by giving serious consideration to the forthcoming full and comprehensive reply of my Government to the above-mentioned report of the Monitoring Group, which will be presented this month to the Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea.

I would be most grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Osman **Saleh**
Minister for Foreign Affairs